



February 8, 2010

*Berman Center for
Animal Care in Westland*
900 N. Newburgh
Westland, MI 48185
734.721.7300

Rep. Mark Meadows, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

*Detroit Center for
Animal Care*
7401 Chrysler Dr.
Detroit, MI 48211
313.872.3400

Re: House Bills 5655, 5656 and 5668

Dear Representative Meadows:

On behalf of the Michigan Humane Society, Michigan's oldest and largest animal welfare organization, I am pleased to voice our support for the above-referenced bills, which would allow animal fighting to be prosecuted under existing state racketeering laws.

*Rochester Hills
Center for Animal Care*
3600 W. Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248.852.1420

Illegal gambling is often the primary reason that dogs and other animals are forced to fight, with thousands of dollars changing hands over the outcome of the bloody battles. The suffering of animals held captive and trained for this horrible cruel activity extends beyond the fight ring, to the purposeful breeding and baiting of uncounted dogs and other animals in our state.

Administration
30300 Telegraph Rd.
Suite 220
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
248.283.1000

This bill, one of the first of its kind in the nation, would give prosecutors a critical tool to help stamp out animal fighting where it occurs. It would allow them to prosecute animal fighting as a criminal activity for financial gain.

We applaud the sponsors of these bills for their efforts to help Michigan's animal community, and urge the House Judiciary Committee to pass this very important legislation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Cal Morgan
President and CEO

cc: Mr. William Zaagman, Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.